



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: July 8, 2022

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Santa Clara County Fire Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Initial Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Santa Clara County Fire Department be provided Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Initial Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of three (3) years.

Background Information:

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 5, 2022, at the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) training facility at 14700 Winchester Boulevard in Los Gatos, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Battalion Chief (RA) Mark Bisbee, State Fire Training; Fire Marshal Gareth Harris, Redwood City Fire Department, representing STEAC; and Fire Technology Coordinator Kris Hubbard, Cosumnes River College, representing the Accredited Academies system. Introductions were facilitated by Battalion Chief Tyler Mortenson that included Deputy Chief Mark Shumate, Captain Pat Osborne, Captain Kalin Ramirez, Firefighter/Engineer Alex Weitzel, Firefighter/Engineer Justin Adney, Administrative Assistant I Kriss Gouveia, and Administrative Assistant II Tiffany Thornton.

The SCCFD Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by a tour of the training facilities with opportunity to assess equipment complement. The Site Team was provided the revised SAR for remote review prior to the event.

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. SCCFD will utilize the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate a California Fire Code-compliant classroom equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits will be provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors will participate in the Academy delivery with members from regional partners complementing the need for Instructors and Evaluators.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at regional training officer meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Department has identified a specific need for additional uniformed personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- Expanded locker rooms, shower facilities, decontamination stations, and extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that procurement of facilities be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- Exploration of electronic-based records management system (RMS) is recommended for ease of records maintenance.

Santa Clara County Fire Department is an accomplished organization steeped in rich tradition. The agency has more than 300 uniformed personnel serving a residential population of more than 225,000 over 132 square miles. Experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the rapidly increasing needs of the community. A focused and cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Eager to meet the needs of the region, the agency has become an active participant in the SFT system.

The agency has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization. The Site Evaluation Team is unanimous in the recommendation of the Santa Clara County Fire Department being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.